FORM PTO 1390 (REV. 11-2000

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

# TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371

ATTORNEY DOCKET NUMBER 1935-00088

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (if known, see 37 CFR 1.5) 10/019770

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/NO00/00116	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE 11 April 2000	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED 19 April 1999
TITLE OF INVENTION A DEVICE FOR A PAWN AUTOMAT FOR BO	ITLES AND BOXES	
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US Lars GUNTVEIT; Niels E. ANDERSEN		
Applicant herewith submits to the United States Design	gnated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items:	and other information:
1. This is a <b>FIRST</b> submission of items concern		
2.  This is a <b>SECOND</b> or <b>SUBSEQUENT</b> subm	ission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371	
	amination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). The submiss	
below.		was some constant to the constant const
The US has been elected by the expiration of	19 months from the priority date (Article 31).	
5 ☐ A copy of the International Application as file	i (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))	
a. ☐ is attached hereto (required only if no	ot communicated by the International Bureau).	
b. □ has been communicated by the Intern		
a. □ is attached hereto (required only if no b. □ has been communicated by the Internoc. □ is not required, as the application was	s filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).	
A English language translation of the Interna	ational Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).	
a. 🗵 is attached hereto.		
b. $\square$ has been previously submitted under 35	U.S.C. 154(d)(4).	
Amendments to the claims of the International	Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3) to communicated by the International Bureau).	))
a. □ are attached hereto (required only if r	ot communicated by the International Bureau).	Ź
b. have been communicated by the Inter-	national Bureau.	
	ne limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.	
$d. \square$ have not been made and will not be m		
8.	ents to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371)	(c)(3)).
9. ☐ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U	.S.C. 371(c)(4)).	
	of the International Preliminary Examination Report uno	ler PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).
Items 11 to 20 below concern other document(s) or	information included:	
<ol> <li>An Information Disclosure Statement under 37</li> </ol>	CFR 1.97 and 1.98.	
<ol> <li>☐ An assignment document for recording. A sep</li> </ol>	arate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3	3.31 is included.
<ol> <li>A FIRST preliminary amendment.</li> </ol>		
<ol> <li>☐ A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary at</li> </ol>	mendment.	
<ol> <li>☐ A substitute specification.</li> </ol>		
<ol> <li>☐ A change of power of attorney and/or address in</li> </ol>	etter.	
<ol> <li>17.</li></ol>	ng in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 35 U.S.C.	1.821-1.825.
8.   A second copy of the published international ap		
.   A second copy of the English language translation	on of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 1540	(d)(4).
★ Other items or information:		
☒ Applicant claims small entity status.		1
Supplement to Transmittal Letter.		

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (if 10 /	ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 1935-00088				
21.   The following fees	are submitted:			CALCULATIONS PTO USE OF	NLY
Basic National Fee (37 CF)	R 1.492(a)(1)-(5)):				
nor international search fee	inary examination fee (37 CFR 1 (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to US port not prepared by the EPO or	SPTO	\$ 1,040.0	ю	
	tamination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not earch Report prepared by the EP		890.0	00	
but international search fee (	amination fee (37 CFR 1.482) r (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to US	SPTO \$	740.0	ю	
	ramination fee (37 CFR 1.482).pa r provisions of PCT Article 33(1)		710.0	ю	
International preliminary exa but all claims satisfied provi	amination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4)	\$		10	
	ENT	ER APPROPRIATE BASIC F	EE AMOUNT =	\$1,040.00	
months from the earliest claim	ishing the oath or declaration late ed priority date (37 C.F.R. 1.49		□ 20 🗵 30	+ 130.00	
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE		
Fotal Claims	4 - 20 =		x \$ 18.00		
Independent Claims	1 - 3 =		x \$ 84.00		
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT C	LAIM(S) (if applicable)		+ \$280.0	ю	
15		TOTAL OF ABOVE CA	ALCULATIONS	= \$1,170.00	
Applicant claims small en	ntity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. T	he fees indicated above are red	luced by 1/2.	- 585.00	
		SUBTOTAL	=	\$ 585.00	
	furnishing the English Translationed priority date (37 C.F.R. 1.49)		□ 20 □30	+	
Total de Caract Camar	bu privilly during (c. C	TOTAL NATIONAL FI	EE =	\$ 585.00	
Fee for recording the enclosed appropriate cover sheet (37 C.)	assignment (37 C.F.R. 1.21(h)) F.R. 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per pr	. The assignment must be accomparty	ompanied by an	+	
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b.	ate copy of this sheet is enclosed	in the amount of \$	be required, or credi	the above fees.  It any overpayment to Deposit Account N  Credit card information should not be	
NOTE: Where an appropria ranted to restore the applica	ate time limit under 37 CFR 1.4 ation to pending status.	494 or 1.495 has not been me	t, a petition to revi	ve (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be fil	ed and
100 East Wisconsin Milwaukee, Wiscon	LES, STARKE & SAWALL, LI A Avenue, Suite 1100 asin 53202		ignature	Italy 10/19/	( 01
Phone: (414) 271-7; Fax: (414) 271-5770		<u>Daniel D. Fet</u> Na	tterley ame	20,323 Reg. No.	

531 Rec'd PCT/PTU 19 OCT 2001

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (if known, see 37 CFR 1.5)

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.
PCT/NO00/00116

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAIL

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as EXPRESS MAIL-POST OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE, in an envelope addressed to: BOX PCT, COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231 on the 1944 day of October, 2001. Express Mail Label EL812732906US.

Daniel D. Fetterley

20,323

Name

Reg. No.

10/19/01

Signature

10/019770 531 Rec'd PCT/ 19 QCT 2001

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of	)	Group Art Unit:
LARS GUNTVEIT ET AL.	)	Examiner:
Int'l. Appln. No. PCT/NO00/00116	)	A DEVICE FOR A PAWN AUTOMAT FOR BOTTLES AND BOXES
Int'l. Filing Date: 11 April 2000	)	DOTTLES AND BOXES

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202 October 19, 2001

Box PCT Application Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to computing the filing fee in this application, kindly amend the above identified application, as follows. The filing fee is to be computed on the claims, as filed.

## In the Abstract:

A clean copy of the Abstract as published is attached. No changes to the Abstract have been made.

## In the Specification:

Please add the following paragraph at page 1, between the title and the first line of text as follows:

## CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

The present application is the U.S. national stage application of International Application PCT/NO00/00116, filed April 11, 2000, which international application was published on November 9, 2000 as International Publication WO 00/67211 in the English language. The International Application claims priority of Norwegian Patent Application 19991853, filed April 19, 1999.

## SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Before the paragraph beginning at line 16 of page 2 insert the following:

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Before the paragraph beginning at line 22 of page 3 insert the following:

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

Before the paragraph beginning at line 5 of page 4 insert the following:

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Respectfully submitted,

ANDRUS, SCEALES, STARKE & SAWALL, LLP

Daniel D. Fetterley (Reg. No. 20,323)

100 East Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 1100Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202(414) 271-7590Atty. Docket No. 1935-00088 (C.12013-61)

## CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAIL

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Daniel D. Fetterley		20,323	
Name		Reg. No.	
Daniel D. Fette	then	10/19/01	
Signature	7	Date	

## 10/019770 531 Rec'd PCT/ 19 OCT 2001 VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

## Attorney Docket No. 1935-00088

## In the specification:

Please add the following paragraph at page 1, between the title and the first line of text as follows:

## CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

The present application is the U.S. national stage application of International Application PCT/NO00/00116, filed April 11, 2000, which international application was published on November 9, 2000 as International Publication WO 00/67211 in the English language. The International Application claims priority of Norwegian Patent Application 19991853, filed April 19, 1999.

## **SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

Before the paragraph beginning at line 16 of page 2 insert the following:

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Before the paragraph beginning at line 22 of page 3 insert the following:

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

Before the paragraph beginning at line 5 of page 4 insert the following:

## **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION**

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In a reverse vending machine the feed opening (22) in the front cover (14), for bottles and cans, is without a fixed connection to pipework, etc. At the same time, an opening (26) for emptying remnants is formed in the front cover (14), in the form of a bowl, which merges at the back side of the front cover into a drain pipe socket (28) positioned above an upwards open drain channel (30) in the interior of the machine, without a fixed connection between the drain pipe socket (28) and the channel (30). The front cover is possibly lockable and can be opened to the side by means of hinges (24), whereby the interior of the reverse vending machine is uncovered for inspection, maintenance or repair.

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# 10/019770 531 Rec'd PCT/PTC 19 OCT 2001

# Ardevice for a pawn automat for bottles and boxes.

This invention relates to reverse vending machines, and more particularly it concerns a device by a reverse vending machine for bottles and/or cans, wherein the machine construction has a front cover, which is formed with a hole therethrough for the bottles and cans, and which covers the mechanisms behind, handling bottles and cans fed through the feed opening; counts the number and types thereof and calculates and supplies the customer, in return, with a note stating the sum due to him/her.

Said bottles and cans accepted by ordinary reverse vending machines, have essentially served as containers for drinks, and it is quite common for them to contain some remaining drops, which desirably should not be brought with the bottle or can into the structure of the reverse vending machine.

Therefore, a sink is often provided near reverse vending machines of this kind, into which sink bottles and cans

containing any remnants of drinks, can be emptied before the bottles and cans are put into the reverse vending machine.

However, it is expensive to install a particular sink at each reverse vending machine. The sink will seldom blend in with the immediate surroundings in the shop, and, although the sink is placed near the reverse vending machine, even a relatively short distance will involve that the emptying of bottles and cans will be considered a separate operation considerably slowing down the bottle depositing process.

Another drawback of reverse vending machines of the kind in question is that the dismantling of the machine construction is relatively complicated, as individual parts have been assembled and secured to one another, so that dismantling will often have to be started from the back side, i.e. opposite the machine's feed opening for bottles and cans.

The purpose of the present invention has therefore been to alleviate or reduce, to a substantial degree, these drawbacks and defects by simple and cheap means.

According to the invention said objectives have been realized in that the reverse vending machine is formed and arranged in accordance with the specifications appearing from the characterizing part of Claim 1.

According to the present invention, near the bottle/can feed opening the front cover of the reverse vending machine is formed with a particular drain opening for remnants, which does not communicate with the fixtures within in the form of joined pipes and pipe bends, the drain opening possibly being provided with a bowl with a freely ending drain pipe socket

at the back, which pipe socket may have its end opening above a fixed drain channel, located within and having an outlet of its own, but being without connection to the front cover.

The drain channel may conveniently be placed under the bottle feed opening as well as the drain opening for remnants, so that also any remnants of drinks from the bottles and cans put through the feed opening, could land in the drain channel and from there into the outlet. Thus, the drain channel with outlet works like a draining device for the entire reverse vending machine construction.

Thus, according to the invention, a more reasonable and convenient positioning of the place for pouring out remnants is achieved, while at the same time the front cover of the machine can be hinged for full uncovering of the internal mechanisms of the reverse vending machine, for example for repair or maintenance purposes. Such a constructional solution, in which the front cover has no connection at all to fixtures in the form of pipe systems etc. is advantageous for repairs on the machine construction. The hinges of the front cover may be dual hinges and the front cover may be provided with a lock device.

A non-limiting example of a preferred embodiment will be explained in the following with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

rig. 1 shows a partial view of a wall, into which a reverse vending machine has been installed, represented here by the front cover;

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Fig. 2 shows a corresponding split view, in which the same front cover has been pulled straight out from the wall; and

Fig. 3 is a vertical section III-III through the wall and the reverse vending machine on a somewhat larger scale.

In the drawings the reference numeral 10 identifies a wall that has a recess 12, e.g. rectangular, therethrough, Fig. 3, which is slightly smaller than a front cover 14 of plastic included in the reverse vending machine 16, of which the apparatus is known and is essentially contained in a housing 18, of which a front portion extends partly into the recess 12 of the wall 10, a hole 20 corresponding with the feed opening 22 for bottles and cans, of the front cover 14.

The reverse vending machine's 16 bottle- and can-handling equipment and electronics for calculating the return are well known in connection with such reverse vending machines, and are not objects of the present invention, which essentially concerns the front cover 14.

Below the bottle/can feed opening 22 this front cover 14, which is secured to the wall 10 or directly to the housing 18 by means of hinges 24, is provided, according to the invention, with a hole therethrough with an upward open bowl 26 underneath, merging at the rear surface of the front cover 14 into a drain pipe socket 28 at the back. The bowl 26 allows remnants of drinks from bottles and cans to be emptied in the immediate vicinity of the feed opening 22, thereby simplifying the operations, especially when many bottles and/or cans are involved, whereas earlier, with the use of a separate sink, a certain number of bottles first had to be subjected to one type of operation (emptying of remnants),

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then the same bottles had to be subjected to the main operation (insertion into the reverse vending machine). Now, each bottle with a remnant can first be emptied and then immediately be inserted into the feed opening 22.

- The feed opening 22 has no communication with the internal apparatus 16, 18 of the reverse vending machine. The same applies to the drain pipe socket 28, whose free end opening is open above a fixed, upward open transversal drain channel 30.
  - The drain channel 30 preferably extends horizontally underneath the internal apparatus 16,18 of the reverse vending machine, so that any type of liquid from bottles and cans, that might be running down in the area behind the front cover, could land in this drain channel 30, which is connected to a separate outlet 32. It is of advantage that the front cover 14 has no fixed connection to fixtures, pipes, cables etc., so that it can be opened and possibly lifted off its hinges 24 to uncover the internal mechanisms and apparatus of the reverse vending machine after a possible lock device has been unlocked.

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#### CLAIMS

A device by a reverse vending machine for bottles and 1. cans, provided with a feed opening (22) accessible from the outside and through which the bottles and cans are inserted into the reverse vending machine (14,16,18), characterized in that the front portion of the reverse vending machine (14, 16,18) in the form of a cover (14) is formed to be secured independently of the internal bottle-/can-handling device and other apparatus (16,18) of the reverse vending machine, the feed opening (22) of the front cover (14), for bottles an cans, being without a fixed connection to pipework etc. within, and that preferably below said feed opening (22) in the front cover (14) is formed an opening (26) therethrough for the emptying of remnants from bottles or cans before their insertion into the reverse vending machine (14,16,18) through the feed opening (22) of the front cover (14), and a corresponding opening (20) positioned within in the internal bottle-/can-handling device of the reverse vending machine.

- 2. A device according to claim 1, c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that the drain opening (26) of the front cover (14), for remnants, is formed in an upwards open bowl, whose opening at the rear side of the front cover (14) ends in a drain pipe socket (28).
- 3. A device according to claim 2, c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n that within the front cover (14), below the outlet opening of the drain pipe socket (28) is arranged a preferably upwards open drain channel (30).

4. A device according to claim 3, c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that the drain channel (30) has a generally horizontal extent and is connected to an outlet (32).



## INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 7:

G07F 7/06

A1

(11) International Publication Number: WO 00/67211

(43) International Publication Date: 9 November 2000 (09.11.00)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/NO00/00116

(22) International Filing Date:

11 April 2000 (11.04.00)

(30) Priority Data:

19991853

19 April 1999 (19.04.99)

NO

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): REPANT AS [NO/NO]; Baarsrudveien 2, N-3478 Nærsnes (NO).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): GUNTVEIT, Lars [NO/NO]; Nilsemarka 11B, N-1390 Vollen (NO). AN-DERSEN, Niels, Erik [NO/NO]; Sjøvollbukta 57, N-1390 Vollen (NO).

74) Agent: HÅMSØ PATENTBYRÅ ANS; Eivind Håmsø, Odd Skjæveland, Gunnar Håmsø, Arnold Østvold, Borge Håmsø, Jostein Soppeland, Box 171, N-4302 Sandnes (NO). (81) Designated States: AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AT (Utility model), AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, CZ (Utility model), DE, DE (Utility model), DK, DK (Utility model), DM, DZ, EE, EE (Utility model), ES, FI, FI (Utility model), GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, IP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SK (Utility model), SL, TI, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

#### Published

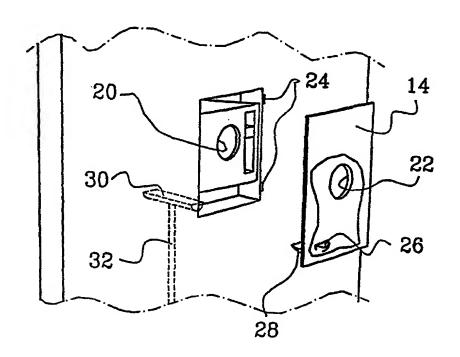
With international search report.

In English translation (filed in Norwegian).

(54) Title: A DEVICE FOR A PAWN AUTOMAT FOR BOTTLES AND BOXES

(57) Abstract

In a reverse vending machine the feed opening (22) in the front cover (14), for bottles and cans, is without a fixed connection to pipework etc. At the same time, an opening (26) for emptying remnants is formed in the front cover (14), in the form of a bowl, which merges at the back side of the front cover into a drain pipe socket (28) positioned above an upwards open drain channel (30) in the interior of the machine, without a fixed connection between the drain pipe socket (28) and the channel (30). The front cover is possibly lockable and can be opened to the side by means of hinges (24), whereby the interior of the reverse vending machine is uncovered for inspection, maintenance or repair.



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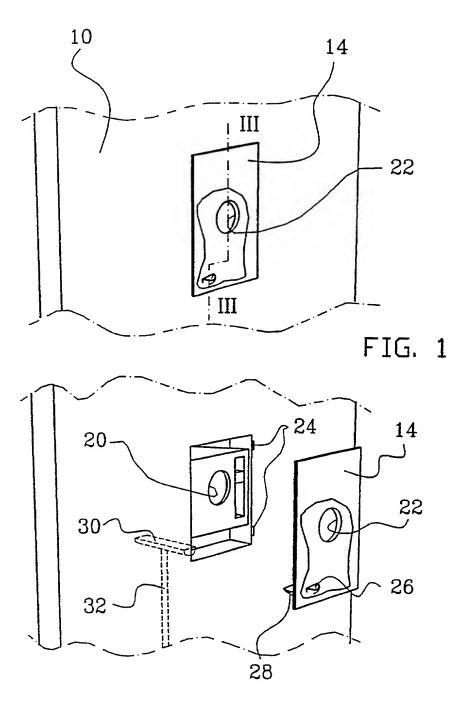


FIG. 2

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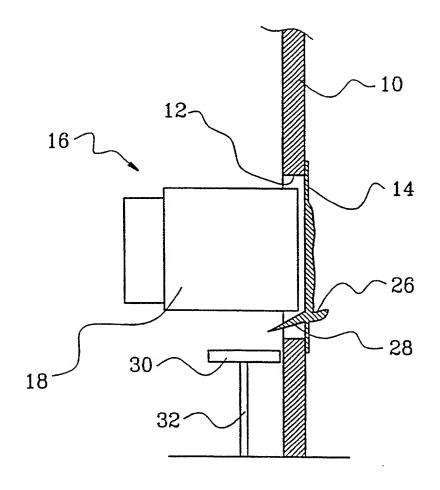


FIG. 3

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Approved for use through 9/30/00
Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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						) or §365(b) of any foreign application(s)			
for patent or inventor's	certificate,	or §365(a) of	any PCT inter	national a	application w	hich designed at least one country other			
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☐ Additional foreign application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority sheet attached hereto:									
	I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code §119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed								
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George H.		25,927	<b>-</b> j		L. Falk	"		27,70		
Gary A. Ess		29.376	_							
Thomas M.	. Wozny	28,922								
Michael E.		28,120	-	!						
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T	llen		State		Zip N-	-1390	Country	Norwa	/	
		Inventor, if any: and middle [if any			A petition		filed for this un ame or Surnam		nventor	
Niels Erik					Anderse	n				
Inventor's Signature	West	~~				Date	23 00	+2	ec	
RESIDENC	DE: City Vol	llen VôX	State	С	Country	Norway	Citizensh	nip	Norwegian	
POST OFF	ICE ADDRESS	Sjøvollbukta	i 57						·	
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